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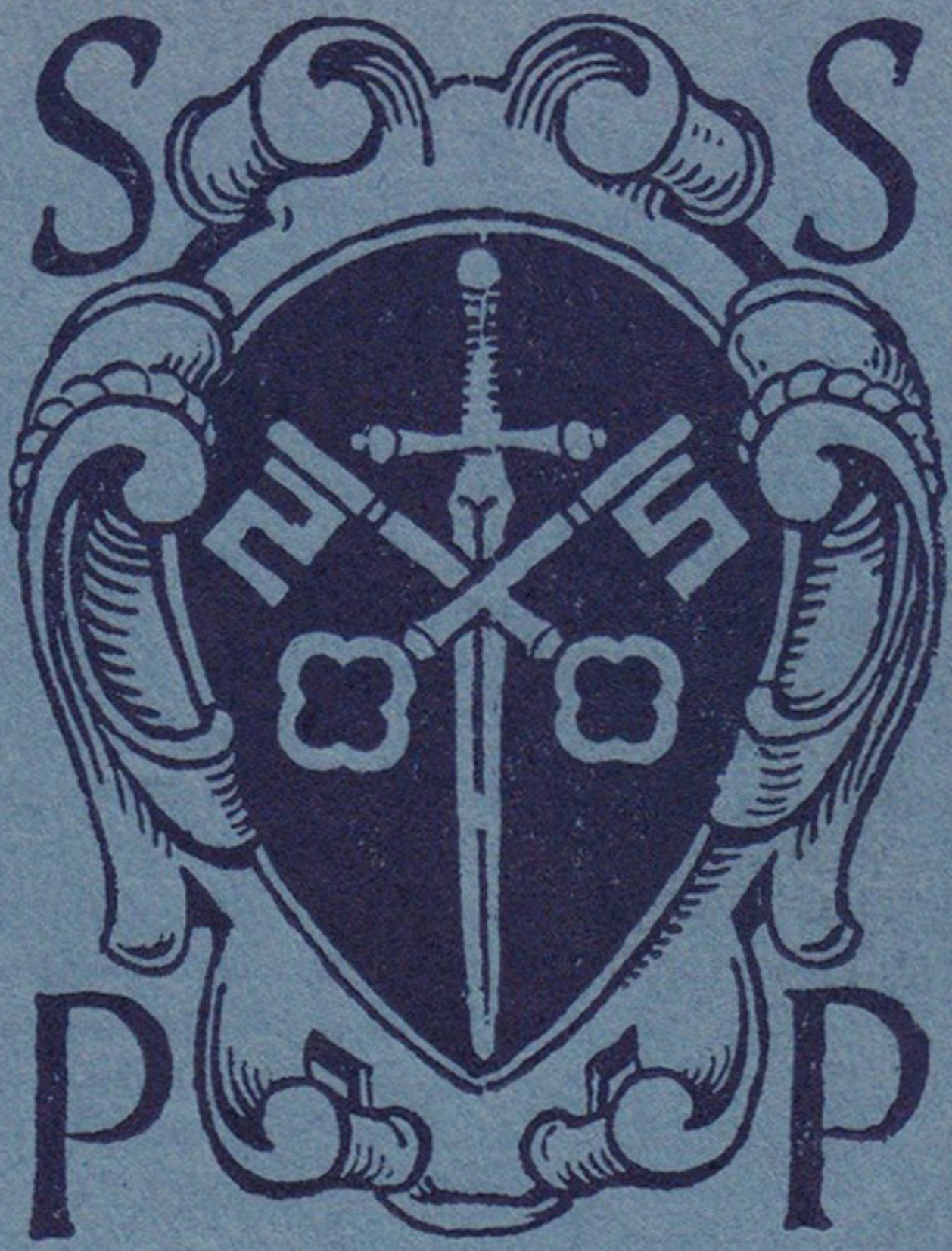
THE SACRED HEART

DEVOTIONS FOR A MONTH



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Flowers from the Garden of the

SACRED HEART

in which, wayfaring soul,
Thou mayest wander this Holy Month
Inhaling the sweet fragrance of the

MYSTIC ROSE

And plucking here and there a bud
To deck the table
Of thy soul's nourishment.

DEDICATED

To those lovers of the

SACRED HEART

in Sagada

Who inspired by him who is the

Desire of the Everlasting Hills

Themselves desire

"That the wilderness may blossom as the rose."

THE SACRED HEART

DEVOTIONS FOR A MONTH

First Day.

"Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually."

Exodus 28. 29.

Aaron is the blessed type of the great High Priest, the Minister of the more perfect tabernacle, who bears in his Heart continually the names of his children. "I have graven thee upon the palms of my Hands." Much more upon his Heart, pierced and broken that my name might be written

therein in the scarlet of his Precious Blood. "Hide me in thy dear Heart." He ever liveth to make intercession for his own sheep whom he calleth by name. "Look, Father, look on his Anointed Face, and only look on us as found in him."

Heart of Jesus, rich to all that call upon thee, have mercy upon us.

Second Day.

"*And Moses spake, saying: This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying: Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord.*" *Exodus* 35. 5.

"Lo, I come to do thy will, O God." Consider the impetuous desire of the Sacred Heart to us, living stones, that he may build us up in the temple of his Glory. Pray that some spark of love from the burning Heart

of Jesus may inflame your heart to bring the Lord's offering, the offering of a self, devoted, consecrated, giving generously in union with the Sacred Heart.

Heart of Jesus, obedient unto death, have mercy upon us.

Third Day.

"And Moses said: Wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord hath given them?" *Numbers* 32. 7.

So may the fiery zeal of the Heart of Jesus rebuke the enemy of my soul ever ready to discourage, to hold back, to weaken my desires after holiness. I see the eagerness of the Saints to possess the land, but whenever I desire to reach unto it, the devil and the flesh cry: "The way is too hard for thee."

Heart of Jesus, the Way and the Life, have mercy upon us.

Fourth Day.

"Who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?"

Deuteronomy 5. 26.

Blessed Margaret Mary was of the number of those who heard the Voice of the Living God in the midst of the fire, the burning passion of the Sacred Heart: "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth." Listen to the desire of his Heart: "O that there were such a heart in them that they would fear me and keep my commandments always." Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise.

Heart of Jesus, refuge of sinners, have mercy upon us.

Fifth Day.

"When Saul had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart."

1 *Samuel* 10. 9.

"Make my heart like unto thy Most Sacred Heart." Take away the heart of stone and give me an heart of flesh. It is our hearts that need reformation, not our surroundings. "For from the heart proceed evil thoughts." It is easy to be like the Pharisees and to cleanse the outside, harder to *mean* all we pray. "Make me a clean heart, O God." Yet if all were right within, what could harm us from without?

Heart of Jesus, Measure of Divine Purity, have mercy upon us.

Sixth Day.

"*The Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.*" 1 *Samuel* 16. 7.

The Lord looketh first on the Sacred Heart of his Beloved Son, Fount of Justice and Mercy, filled with all the fulness of the Godhead. Then on the heart of Mary, beating at one with his interceding Heart, full of tenderness for us exiles of earth. And through these Hearts pray we that he may look upon ours, seeing them veiled in the Precious Blood of the one and the sweet purity of the other. For how else should we dare to think of that piercing gaze turned upon such hearts as ours?

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased, have mercy upon us.

Seventh Day.

"David said to Saul: Let no man's heart fail because of Goliath; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine." 1 *Samuel* 17. 32.

Does thy heart fail thee, child of God, as thou seest the power of the enemy who boasteth himself against thee? Nay, see the true David speaks: "Thy servant will go and fight." He who said: "I am among you as one that serveth." "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Let his Heart be a strong tower for thee against the face of the enemy.

Heart of Jesus, salvation of them that hope in thee, have mercy upon us.

Eighth Day.

"God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea-shore." 1 *Kings* 4. 29.

Come, Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, Bond of Love, uniting the Sacred Heart with the Eternal Godhead, and enkindle our hearts. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost fill the Sacred Heart, and through it flow into the hearts of his lovers. Wisdom is the gift which enables us to attend to the things of eternity, the things which matter, for which we were created and by which we are saved and sanctified. "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them." Fix thy mind upon the eternal, that thou mayest use the transitory well; dwell in the invisible that thou mayest profit by the visible. "Largeness of heart"—Generosity. We must give all that we may receive all, receive all only that we may give all.

Heart of Jesus, abyss of wisdom, have mercy upon us.

Ninth Day.

"And Solomon said: Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people. And God said unto him: Because thou hast asked this thing, behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart." 1 *Kings* 3. 9–12.

"Give thy servant an understanding heart" like unto thine Heart. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost." One may know little about religion and yet be a good Christian, or may know much and not be a Christian at all. It is this gift of the Holy Ghost which makes the difference. Enlightening the natural powers of the soul, it enables us to discern the meaning of the Faith, illumined as it is by the glow of the Sacred Heart. "In thy light we shall see light." Thou art called to

be a king; how shalt thou rule thyself except he give thee understanding?

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and understanding, have mercy upon us.

Tenth Day.

"*Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.*" *Psalm* 73. 24.

Ever to the soul there is present, not only the choice between good and evil, but between the higher and the lower good. Let us ever beg the sweet counsel of the Sacred Heart that we may be guided by the desire to glorify him, to choose the highest when we see it.

Heart of Jesus, Guide of souls. have mercy upon us.

Eleventh Day.

"*Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart.*" *Psalm* 27. 14.

"He shall strengthen thine heart." "*Dominus fortitudo plebis suæ.*" The Lord is the strength of his people. How strong was the Sacred Heart as he trod the way appointed of his Father, even to the *Via Dolorosa* and the Cross. "In his weakness are we made strong." It is little rather than great things which try our strength, by their very smallness and monotony. Pray for that strength which will enable you to bear the daily round of common vexations, and to keep your little resolutions.

Heart of Jesus, powerful in weakness, have mercy upon us.

Twelfth Day.

"*The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge.*" *Proverbs* 15. 14.

The gift of Knowledge is to help us to use creatures for God's glory and the salvation of our souls. Consider the knowledge of Our Lord, using all the common things of life as the means by which he grew in favour with God and man. The common, everyday things all around us are the instrumental means of our salvation.

Heart of Jesus, working in the carpenter's shop, have mercy upon us.

Thirteenth Day.

"*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*" *Deuteronomy* 6. 5.

Piety is a tender love of God as our Father and for all that belongs to him. Consider

the love of the Sacred Heart for his Eternal Father; for his Holy Mother; for God's House, "The zeal of thine house hath consumed me"; for the Word of God, ever upon his lips; for his disciples, "I have called you friends"; for the Holy Cross, "With desire I have desired" to keep the Passover in which he was the True Lamb which taketh away the sins of the world. Let your soul be rooted deep in a filial love of God and of all things which he gathers to his Heart.

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father, have mercy upon us.

Fourteenth Day.

"*Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy Name.*" *Psalm* 86. 11.

Fear of God is not merely to serve him fearingly, but to serve him wholly, exclusively and in all things. It is the manner of

our service, the strength of our worship, the depth of our love. "Fear the Lord, all ye his Saints." For fear is not fright, but fear lest we should lose him, lest we should pain him, lest we should disappoint him, who like a true Father expects great things of his children, and yet is content with the little we bring him, since he knows we have no more to give.

Heart of Jesus, Pattern of holy fear, have mercy upon us.

Fifteenth Day.

"*Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee to know what was in thine heart.*" *Deuteronomy* 8. 2.

So by many a dark and devious way, through many a temptation, his loving Heart leads his children that he may know what is in their hearts. The way to the Promised Land leads through a wilderness, yet fear not, for he has been there, nay, will be

there with thee. "I will never leave thee or forsake thee." "I will make the wilderness a pool of water." Even in the dry, seeming unfruitful times of temptation and weariness, he will cause the wilderness to blossom as a rose.

Heart of Jesus, tempted in the wilderness, have mercy upon us.

Sixteenth Day.

"And Jehu said to Jehonadab: Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered: It is." 2 Kings 10. 15.

"The heart is deceitful above all things." Self-examination must be nothing else than to look at ourselves in the mirror of the Sacred Heart. It is the *human* Heart, norm and pattern of all hearts, to which we must be conformed ere we may gaze upon its unveiled fires.

Heart of Jesus, unspotted Mirror of Justice, have mercy upon us.

Seventeenth Day.

"*Of Zebulun, such as went forth to battle were not of double heart.*" 1 *Chronicles* 12. 33.

"A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." The man with a divided heart is always miserable. If you would follow the true David to war against his enemies and yours, seek that your heart cleave steadfastly to his Heart. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Only the single-hearted may be numbered in the army of his soldiers.

Heart of Jesus, King of all hearts, have mercy upon us.

Eighteenth Day.

"In Christ Jesus we have boldness and access with confidence by faith of him."

Ephesians 3. 12.

Confidence is the key to the Sacred Heart. He loves us to trust him, to confide in him, as a father loves to have his children come to him in all things. Nothing is too great, nothing is too small to bring to him. The more like children we are, the more his Heart opens to us. True confidence is more than a sensible feeling of trust and hope, it is an utter dependence upon Our Lord, because he is our Father and wishes to help us, because he is our God and able to help us, because he is the Faithful and True and has promised to help us.

Heart of Jesus, rich in mercy to all who call upon thee, have mercy upon us.

Nineteenth Day.

"For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my Name may be there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually." 2 *Chronicles* 7. 16.

It is too good to be true, we cry, that the Sacred Heart should in all reality ever dwell with us in the Tabernacle. Nay—but too good not to be true, for his delights are to be with the sons of men, and has he not promised, "I will dwell with them, and they shall be my people, and I will be their God"?

JESUS . . . IS . . . HERE. There is material for a life's meditations before the Tabernacle in these words.

Heart of Jesus, Prisoner of Love, have mercy upon us.

Twentieth Day.

"*So he fed them with a faithful and true Heart.*" *Psalm* 78. 73.

Giving them Food from Heaven and feeding them with the Bread of Angels. For he who is the Life of the Angels is the Saviour of men, and in no wise than by the giving of himself. "Behold this Heart which has so loved men." "Take, eat, this is my Body." "*O res mirabilis, manducat Dominum pauper servus et humilis.*" O marvel, that the poor and lowly slave should feed upon the Body of his Lord!

Heart of Jesus, True Bread from Heaven, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-first Day.

"I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh." Canticles 5. 2.

His sleep within the Tabernacle is but a seeming. He is as if helpless, imprisoned, confined, yet the boundless, infinite activity of the Eternal operates here. "He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep." Compare the calm energizing of the Sacred Heart with our fussiness, half defeating its purpose and dissipating our strength. Watch often before the Tabernacle that thou mayest learn something of his calm, steady, persistent, wakeful energy.

Heart of Jesus, unmoved, all motion's source, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-second Day.

"Thou hast given him his heart's desire."

Psalm 21. 2.

That eternal desire of the Sacred Heart which led him, as St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi says, "to leave the joy of heaven and to seek the jewelled stole of suffering on earth"; that desire for the souls of men which caused his bitter cry, "I thirst"; that desire which knew no rest until his Heart was pierced, nay, until he had given himself not only for us, but to us in the Most Holy Sacrament. Thank him for the desires which he has granted you, and for those which he has refused, not only because they were not good for you, but so that he might give you something better.

Heart of Jesus, desire of the eternal hills have mercy upon us.

Twenty-third Day.

"*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart.*" *Psalm* 34. 18.

Why else was his Heart broken but that with its sweet medicine he might heal the brokenhearted? Wouldst thou have him nigh to thee? Then lay aside all pride and self, and with true contrition open wide thy heart to him.

Heart of Jesus, pierced with a spear, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-fourth Day.

"*The Son of God loved me, and gave himself for me.*" *Galatians* 2. 20.

Heart of Jesus, created in Mary's womb . . . for me! Heart of Jesus, bowed beneath the olives in Gethsemane . . . for me! Heart of Jesus, pierced on the Cross . . . for me! Heart of Jesus, throned in Heaven's glory . . . for me! Heart of Jesus,

veiled in the Sacred Host . . . for me! Heart of Jesus, dwelling day and night in the Tabernacle . . . for me! Heart of Jesus, given in Holy Communion . . . to me! *Domine, non sum dignus.*

Twenty-fifth Day.

"*When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, she came to prove Solomon with hard questions at Jerusalem, and she communed with him of all that was in her heart.*" 2 *Chronicles* 9. 1.

Come, my soul, from thy far country bringing thy gifts, and commune with thy King who daily holds audience in his Tabernacle. Then shalt thou indeed know that the half hath not been told thee of him who will satisfy thy hungry soul with gladness. "One day in thy courts is better than a thousand." If this be true, why is his royal court so neglected? Why does the Sacred

Heart reign indeed, yet in such loneliness? Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-sixth Day.

"*Wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.*" *Psalm* 104. 15.

Joy is one of the fruits of a good Communion. "Blood of Christ, inebriate me." Mary looks upon our poverty, and cries: "They have no wine"; and the Divine Lover, mindful of the words of the Holy Ghost, "Give strong drink unto them that mourn, let them drink and forget their poverty," creates his everflowing Chalice for the rejoicing of our souls. Love is a fire which begets love, and it is the love of the Sacred Heart, poured out upon us, which inebriates us, communicating to us the

divine gladness, the passionate enthusiasm of lovers.

Heart of Jesus, Joy of all the Saints, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-seventh Day.

"Who can say: I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." *Proverbs* 20. 11.

"Like cleaveth to like." The Heart of the King leaps forth from his royal throne to embrace the pure Heart of Mary, full of grace. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Nay, here and now shall they possess God, who finds no other home so dear as the hearts of his children. "I have called you friends." Friends of the Sacred Heart! O Jesus, most Lovely, wash me more and more from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin, that, purified by

thee, I may approach to thee, the Pure One, and may be worthy to dwell in thy Heart all the days of my life. (St. Bernard.)

Twenty-eighth Day.

"We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain." 2 *Corinthians* 6. 1.

"Fellow-workers with him." The Sacred Heart has a work to do and is bent on doing it with our help. "How am I straitened until it be accomplished." "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." To help Our Lord, to make his interests ours, to advance his cause, to be Apostles of his Heart, "who is sufficient for these things?" In the Tabernacle Our Lord is interceding, entreating, saving, sanctifying. His Life is hidden but active. Our activity for good will be in proportion to the depth of our hidden life. "Hid with Christ in God." He calls us to unite our hidden life of prayer

and devotion with his and to offer it all in union with the intentions of his Heart. Our daily morning offering, a *Pater* and *Ave*, a decade of the Rosary, a First Friday Communion—every little helps if we throw it into the Treasury of the Sacred Heart.

Heart of Jesus, Divine Treasury of Grace, have mercy upon us.

Twenty-ninth Day.

"*Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.*" 2 *Samuel* 1. 23.

Utterly different in character, in education, in position, SS. Peter and Paul were united in the love of the Sacred Heart, which makes little of our castes and divisions. The love which transformed Peter, the unstable enthusiast, into the foundation-stone of the Church, and turned the fiery zeal of Saul into passionate devotion to the Crucified, enabled

them not only to surmount all difficulties, but to live and die as brothers. We need the love of the Sacred Heart even more in our relations with others than in our interior life. This should be the first—as it is so often the last—to be subject to the Mind of Christ.

Heart of Jesus, Strength of the Martyrs, have mercy upon us.

Thirtieth Day.

"*The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.*" *St. Matthew* 13. 45.

We have sought, we have found, what have we given for the Pearl of great price? What we gain cheaply is valued little. Is it the very easiness with which we are allowed to find the Pearl which leads us to think that we need pay little for it? But the price is fixed: "All that thou hast." "A good treasure, a good pearl is thy Heart, O Jesus.

Who would cast away this Pearl? Rather I will sell all that I have, all the thoughts of my mind, and I will buy it for myself and cast all my care into the Heart of my Lord Jesus, and without fail it will sustain me" (St. Bernard).

A Morning Offering.

My God, I give thee my day, I give thee my prayers, I give thee what I shall suffer, and all that I shall think and do, for those intentions for which thou art interceding in the Tabernacle.

Offering to the Sacred Heart.

Sweet Jesus, I commend to thy Sacred Heart all that I have done in the hour that is past, to be cleansed and purified and offered to God the Father for his eternal praise; and all that I shall do in the hour that is beginning I resolve to do it for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, in union with thy Passion. (St. Gertrude.)

Ejaculations to the Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, thy Kingdom come.

O Sweetest Heart of Jesus, I implore,
That I may ever love thee more and more.

Jesu, meek and humble of Heart,
Make my heart like unto thy Heart.

O Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love for thee.

Divine Heart of Jesus, convert sinners, save the dying, deliver the souls in Purgatory.

Sweet Heart of Jesus, be thou to me not a Judge, but a Saviour.

Most Pure heart of Mary, may the Heart of Jesus rule my heart.

Have mercy upon us, O Heart of Jesus, and on all that we recommend to thy mercy, and do with us, for us, and in us whatsoever thou wilt, for we give ourselves to thee with the entire confidence that thou wilt never abandon us either in time or eternity.

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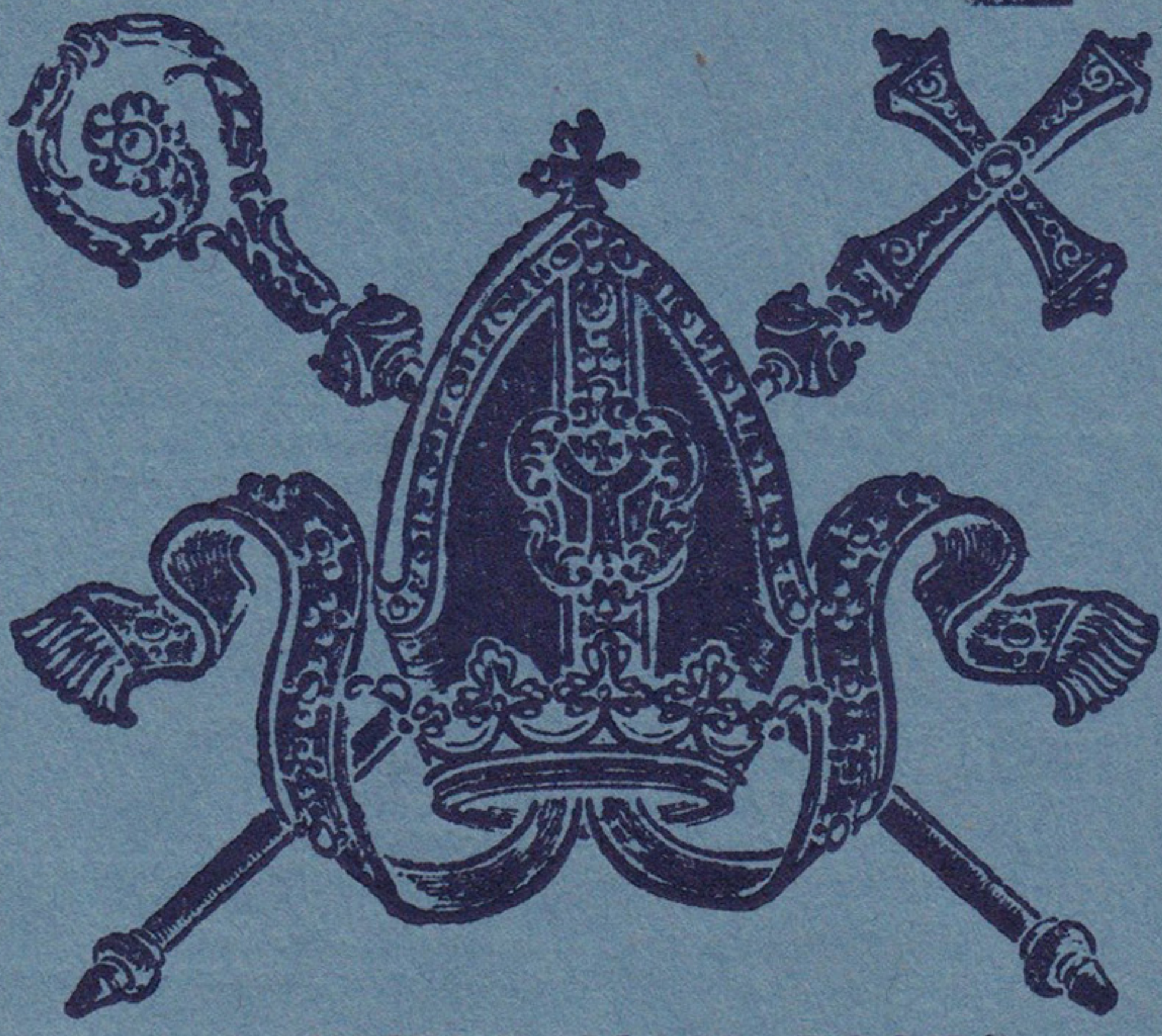

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